

**REMARKS**

The fact that December 31, 2004, fell on a Federal Holiday ensures that this paper is timely filed as of January 3, 2005, the next business day.

In the Office Action dated August 31, 2004, pending Claims 1-34 were rejected and the rejection made final. In response Applicants have filed herewith an Amendment After Final and have amended independent Claims 1, 25, 30, and 34. Applicants intend no change in the scope of the claims by the changes made by this amendment. It should be noted these amendments are not in acquiescence of the Office's position on allowability of the claims, but merely to expedite prosecution.

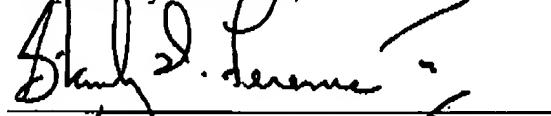
Applicants and the undersigned are most grateful for the time and effort accorded the instant application by the Examiner. On November 3, 2004, Applicant's counsel conducted a telephone interview with the Examiner and his supervisor, Anthony Knight, in which the present application was discussed. It was agreed that in response to the amendments made herein the finality would be withdrawn. The Examiner also stated the art would be revisited in the responding Office Action.

Claims 1-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101, "because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter." Claims 1, 25, 30, and 34 are independent claims; the remaining claims are dependent claims. The independent claims have been rewritten to recite "[a] computer implemented method". (Claim 1) Similar language appears in the other independent claims. It is respectfully submitted this rejection should now be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Independent Claims 1, 25, 30, and 34 are in condition for allowance. By virtue of dependence from what are believed to be allowable Independent Claims 1, 25, 30, and 34, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-24, 26-29, 31-33, and 35-36 are also presently allowable. Notice to the effect is hereby earnestly solicited.

The "prior art made of record" has been reviewed. Applicants acknowledge that such prior art was not deemed by the Office to be sufficiently relevant to have been applied against the claims of the instant application. To the extent that the Office may apply such prior art against the claims in the future, Applicants will be fully prepared to respond thereto.

Respectfully submitted,



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